

WELCOME TO
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

May 3, 2020

Rev. Andy Sonneborn

4th Sunday of Easter

Gathering Around the Word of God

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Spirit of life and love, we gather together in different ways this morning, from computer screens, from telephones, from car radios; we gather, reaching out across the wires, waving from a safe distance, to come together in religious community. From living room to front porch to car seat, we gather as we are able, ready to be of service to each other, to the world, ready to build the community of hope and of love, as we face this bright morning. We are apart, but we are together, offering our love, our commitment, our hope, and our prayers, in service to one another and this world. It is a new way, but an old way, that we come together in worship today. We are joyful to be together in this time. Amen.

Hymn #123 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" vs. 1-4

Call to Confession

Leader: We have come to a time of confession. The prophets call us to repent and to change our ways. Christ offers to carry the burdens and heavy loads of our lives for us. Let us confess all the heavy burdens that we carry unnecessarily.

Unison Prayer of Confession

All: Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Hear us now in these moments of silent prayer and reflection...

Moment of Silence to Confess our Sins

Pastor Andy...Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Believe the good news. The grave is empty. Grace and love have won. We are forgiven. We are beloved. We are the sacred children of the God who has conquered death forever. Thanks be to God. Alleluia and Amen!

Proclamation God's Word

Psalm Reading

Psalm 23 (KJV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup

runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-35(CEB)

¹I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. ²The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. ⁵They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." ⁶Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying. ⁷So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

Message

"Life to the Fullest"

Responding to God's Word

Joys/Concerns

Service of Holy Communion

We are about to practice an ancient sacrament in a new way. This morning, I invite you to lend Christ to your table for a few minutes. We may be in different rooms, sitting around different tables, but we trust that in this moment, we are gathered around one table. Scripture reminds us that people will come from east and west, and from north and south to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According

to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. The table in front of you is no longer your table. It is Christ's table and there is always room for one more person. So, come and let us join together in the sacred meal.

Prayer of Consecration and Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray, God of us all, we may be sitting in front of different tables, but we trust that we have been gathered around your Son's holy table. Each of us has different elements on their own table, but we trust that these elements will be, for us, your body and your blood. We praise you for the beauty of your creation that you call good. We know that whether we live or we die, we live and move and have our being in you. We ask that you would bless this moment. Show up, for and with us, in a real way in this time. We ask that you pour out your Holy Spirit upon these elements, that they may be for us your body and your blood. Nourish us and fill us with your presence. And hear us now as we pray the prayer your son, Jesus Christ, taught us to pray together, saying, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Consecration of the Elements

Leader: On the night that he was betrayed, Jesus gathered his disciples around a common table in an upper room in an ordinary house. After supper, he took some ordinary bread on the table and he broke it and said, this is my body, which is broken for you. Eat this, all of you, in memory of me. After all had eaten, Jesus took an ordinary cup and filled it with wine. As he was doing that, he said to the disciples, this is the cup of salvation, poured out for you and for

all. Drink this, all of you, in memory of me. For as often as we eat this bread and we drink this cup, we proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ until he comes again in glory. Amen.

Instructions for taking communion

Leader: Now is the time that we will partake in the body and blood of Christ. If you are alone, in a second, you can eat your bread and then take a drink from the cup. If you are a family, I invite you to take a piece of the loaf or element, pass it around the table until everyone has eaten, then all of you eat together. Each of you should have your own cup, and you can all drink together.

Leader: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer After Worship

Leader: Let us pray, Good and gracious God, we thank you for this holy and sacred moment. We ask that you bless us as we depart from your table this morning. Help us to see you in the great and small places of our lives. In your name we pray. Amen.

*Charge and Benediction